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February 9, 2004

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application of Thierry VERHAEGE, Alain CORDIER, Patrick MEJASSON  
A BRANCHING UNIT ADAPTED TO BE INTEGRATED INTO A SUBMARINE  
TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM, A SUBMARINE TELECOMMUNICATION  
SYSTEM, AND A METHOD OF RECONFIGURING A SUBMARINE  
TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

**Assignee: ALCATEL**

Our Ref. Q79625

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above comprising 14 sheets of the specification, including the claims and abstract, 2 sheets of drawings, a copy of the executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form, and a copy of the executed Declaration and Power of Attorney. Also enclosed is an Information Disclosure Statement and PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified), and Preliminary Amendment.

**PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT BEFORE  
CALCULATING THE FEE**

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>15</u> - 20	=	<u>          </u>	x	\$18.00	=	<u>          </u>	\$0.00
Independent claims	<u>1</u> - 3	=	<u>          </u>	x	\$86.00	=	<u>          </u>	\$0.00
Base Fee								\$770.00
<b>TOTAL FILING FEE</b>								<b>\$770.00</b>
Recordation of Assignment								\$40.00
<b>TOTAL FEE</b>								<b>\$810.00</b>


Checks for the statutory filing fee of \$770.00 and Assignment recordation fee of \$40.00 are attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
France	0301585	February 11, 2003

The priority document is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,  
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Attorneys for Applicant

By:   
David J. Cushing  
Registration No. 28,703

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

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